

11-5-1973

The University of Dayton Marching Band

Follow this and additional works at: https://ecommons.udayton.edu/news_rls

Recommended Citation

"The University of Dayton Marching Band" (1973). *News Releases*. 5814.
https://ecommons.udayton.edu/news_rls/5814

This News Article is brought to you for free and open access by the Marketing and Communications at eCommons. It has been accepted for inclusion in News Releases by an authorized administrator of eCommons. For more information, please contact frice1@udayton.edu, mschlangen1@udayton.edu.

DAYTON, Ohio, November 5, 1973 --- The University of Dayton marching band isn't like most bands. For one thing, fancy geometric formations take a back seat as the band concentrates on music and gets standing ovations for its efforts.

The most recent display of virtuosity was a UD's game with Drake University, October 27, when fans stood for a full five minutes cheering their music makers on.

The next performance will be Saturday, November 10 at Fairground Stadium in Louisville when the Flyers meet the Cardinals.

Ironically the accent on music makes UD's band unique.

"We're very, very untraditional in terms of what we play and what we do," says Mr. Clair Miller, Director of U.D. Bands, with pride. "I'd say we're even more far out than Stanford. Stanford makes fun of traditional college bands. We don't."

In contrast, his philosophy sounds traditional enough: "We just figure people really do dig music. We try to capitalize on that. The fancy patterns look nice but they don't have much to do with music."

Although the band does not tangle itself into fancy patterns, it still offers something to dazzle the eye. Movement is constant; even when standing, martial dignity gives way to a loose limbed response to jazz tempo. The drum major, Mike Trego, is decked out as Jean Lafitte, the pirate. Members of the percussion section are outfitted as Spanish Caballeros. That, together with the Marching Coeds and the Pom Pom girls, who march up through the ranks of musicians to take their position in front of the band, impresses the eye as streams of color pouring out on to the football field.

UD has been able to capitalize on Miller's talents as an arranger. As a consequence, the band's repertoire includes current hit tunes. There may be more brass than electric guitar to the band's rendition of "Get It On," but the hip swaying, finger snapping syncopation is just the same. The flamboyant band director who gesticulates with his entire torso offers no apologies.

"If you can't find me, look at The Shed. They have a great juke box there," he says.

The Shed is perhaps better known at UD as a dispenser of suds than as a fountain of culture. Miller gets his culture in more traditional forms as well. He has been a second trombonist with the Dayton Philharmonic for 10 years and directed concert band at Yellow Springs High School for six years before moving to U.D.

Even though the band's forte is music, only about 10 per cent of the members are music majors. The largest groups are pre med students. The next largest group are in engineering. "I think we get people here who like music," Miller claims. "Even though they may not be majoring in music, they want the opportunity to play in a good band."